

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0007] In an embodiment of the system according to the present invention, the system comprises:

education providing means for providing the educational service utilizing at least one educational material to the user via the network, wherein the educational material includes a plurality of elements which are read out from a storage such as ~~a~~an educational material database;

test transmission means for transmitting a test to the user by each predetermined stage and for prompting the user to send an answer to the test, wherein said test is associated with said educational material;

evaluation means for receiving the answer from the user via the network to evaluate it;

educational material optimizing means for selecting at least one element from an educational material database based upon the evaluation result by the evaluation means with reference to predetermined selection criteria;

educational material dynamic changing means for dynamically changing a part of said educational material using said selected at least one element, wherein the part corresponds to the selected element and is not yet finished/taken by the user; and

evaluation transmission means for transmitting the evaluation result by the evaluation means to the user.

Alternatively, in another embodiment of the system according to the present invention the present distance education system comprises:

education providing means for providing the educational service utilizing at least one educational material to the user via the network, wherein the educational material includes a plurality of elements;

test transmission means for transmitting a test to the user by each predetermined stage and for prompting the user to send an answer to the test, wherein said test is associated with said educational material;

evaluation means for receiving the answer from the user via the network to evaluate it;

educational material optimizing means for selecting at least one element from ~~a~~an educational material database based upon the evaluation result by the evaluation means with reference to predetermined selection criteria; and

educational material dynamic changing means for transmitting said selected at least one element to the user via the network and for prompting a user device (e.g., a PC, a terminal, or a PDA) to dynamically replace a part of the educational material by the selected element, wherein the part corresponds to the selected element and is not yet finished/taken by the user.

In the conventional distance education system such as a network lecture providing system, if once a lecture has started, a content of the educational material is fixed and a user can obtain only a uniform educational service. However, according to the present invention, the content (elements) of the educational material may dynamically be changed to be more adapted to the each user who is learning with the material. Since the educational material is allowed to dynamically be changed to more suitable one for each user, it is possible to improve learning efficiency or comprehension of each user.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0010] In still another embodiment of the system according to the present invention, said system further comprises:

an educational support member database in which educational support members, specializations areas of respective educational support members, and contact addresses of respective educational support members are ~~recorded~~recorded therein;

support member selection means for receiving support request form the user via the network and for selecting at least one educational support member who has a specialization field coinciding with a specialization ~~fields~~field of said support request received from the user via the network or a specialization field in which the educational service is provided to the user educational support member database; and

connection agent means for mediating a connection between said contact address of the selected educational support member and said user via the network and for communicating at least one piece of information from audio information, image information, and text information between the selected educational support member and the user.

According to the present invention, each user can receives appropriate educational teaching as needed, it is possible to improve learning efficiency or comprehension of each user.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0011] In still another embodiment of the system according to the present invention, said system further comprises:

an educational support member database, in which educational support members, specializations areas of the respective educational support members, and contact addresses of the respective educational support members are ~~recoded~~recorded therein;

support member selection means for receiving support request form the user via the network and for selecting at least one educational support member who has a specialization field coinciding with a specialization ~~fields~~field of said support request received from the user via the network or a specialization field in which the educational service is provided to the user from said educational support member database;

support request transmission means for transmitting said support request to the contact address of the selected educational support member via the network and for prompting the educational support member to reply it; and

user support means for receiving the reply of the support request from the selected educational support member via the network and for forwarding it to the corresponding user via the network.

According to the present invention, each user can receives adequate educational teaching as needed, it is possible to improve learning efficiency or comprehension of each user.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] In still another embodiment of the system according to the present invention, said system further comprises register means for registering status of the educational support members, in which each support member is ready or not ready to ~~whether or not readily~~ respond to the support request, to the educational support member database,

and wherein said support selection means, when an educational support member is to be selected, for preferentially selecting the educational support member who has a status in which a member can readily respond.

Alternatively said system further comprises register means for registering schedules of the respective educational support members, each schedule indicates time schedule for which each support member can respond the support request.

According to the present invention, each user can receives proper educational teaching as needed, it is possible to improve learning efficiency or comprehension of each user.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0013] By way of easy explanation the aspect of the present invention has been described as the systems i.e., device, however it is understood that the present invention may be realized as methods corresponding to the systems, programs embodying the methods as well as a storage media storing the programs therein.

For example, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a distance education method for providing an educational service to a user via a network, the method comprises the steps of:

providing the educational service utilizing at least one educational material to the user via the network, wherein the educational material includes a plurality of elements;

transmitting a test to the user by each predetermined stage and for prompting the user to send an answer to the test, wherein said test is associated with said educational material;

receiving the answer from the user via the network to evaluate it;

transmitting the evaluation result by the evaluation step to the user;

selecting at least one element from ~~a~~an educational material database based upon the evaluation result by the evaluation step with reference to predetermined selection criteria; and

dynamically changing a part of said educational material using said selected at least one element, wherein the part corresponds to the selected element and is not yet finished/taken by the user.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0016] Fig. 3 is a block diagram representing an exemplary basic arrangement of a distance education system according to the present invention. As shown in Fig. 3, the distance education system 100 provides educational services to each user using a user terminal 250 via a network 200 (such as a public telecommunication network, the Internet, a

cable TV network, or a wireless network). The distance education system 100 includes: an education providing means 110 for providing the educational service utilizing at least one educational material to the user via the network, wherein the educational material includes a plurality of elements; a test transmission means 120 for transmitting a test to the user by each predetermined stage and for prompting the user to send an answer to the test, wherein said test is associated with said educational material; an evaluation means 130 for receiving the answer from the user via the network to evaluate it; an evaluation transmission means 140 for transmitting the evaluation result by the evaluation means 130 to the user; an educational material optimizing means 150 for selecting at least one element from ~~a~~an educational material database based upon the evaluation result by the evaluation means 130 with reference to predetermined selection criteria; an educational material dynamic changing means 160 for dynamically changing a part of said educational material using said selected at least one element, wherein the part corresponds to the selected element and is not yet completed by the user; a support member selection means 170 for selecting at least one educational support member from an educational support member database 190; a connection agent means 172 for mediating a connection between a contact address of the selected educational support member and said user via the network; a support request transmission means 174 for transmitting said support request to the selected educational support member (i.e., the contact address) via the network and for prompting the educational support member to reply it; a user support means 176 for receiving the reply of the support request from the selected educational support member via the network and for forwarding it to the corresponding user via the network; and a register means 178 for registering status of the educational support members, in which each support member is ~~whether or not readily ready~~ or not ready to respond to the support request, to the educational support member database.